

REPORT

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CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 26 May 1955

NO. OF PAGES 2

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(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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ILLEGIB

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- 2 -

was passive: they seconded the suggestions made by the Soviet advisor, sanctioning them with their authority.

4. The behavior of the Soviet advisor during the inspection of the state farms was such as to convince everyone present that the advisor had complete authority to criticize and intervene directly in the working methods of the farm. It was learned later that Kudriavtsev made notes of the names of those farm administrators and workers with whom he was not satisfied and turned over their names to the Central Committee of the SED. The reaction of the farm workers both to the wage norms and their treatment by the Soviet advisor was very cool. Most of the workers, who were interviewed by the Soviet advisor through his personal interpreter after the discussion, expressed themselves very carefully, but some of the workers, especially those who felt that the wage norms would diminish their earnings, showed their dissatisfaction rather openly, saying that before introducing new norms the government should provide enough fodder. Critical remarks and dissatisfaction were predominant and were increased by the harsh criticism expressed by the Soviet advisor on the state of the farm at which the meeting took place.
5. Several state farms in the Halle area are in extremely poor condition. ILLEGIB
An observer who had personal experience in Soviet agriculture
[redacted] the farms to be poorer, dirtier and
[redacted] "ovkhozes" of that time. The cat
[redacted] and not well cared for. There
[redacted] ILLEGIB
6. Most of the state farms observed have enough mechanical equipment - of Soviet make - but a great part of it is not operating because of lack of parts. Electrical milking machines cannot be used because the small rubber parts which are placed on the cow's udder are missing. Break-downs are very frequent.
7. The introduction of wage norms and the direct "inspection" of East German state farms by the Soviet advisor appear to be directly related to the shortages in food items noticeable all over East Germany. The ILLEGIB drive aims at increasing the productivity of the farms, but it appears that no organizational steps will be taken to solve the lack of food

- 2 -

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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY East Germany DATE DISTR. 26 May 1955
 SUBJECT Introduction of Wage Norms on VEGs NO. OF PAGES 2 ILLEGIB

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1. In the second half of March 1955, the Soviet advisor to the East German Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Serafim Aleksyevich Kudriavtsev, who was in charge of the state farms (Volkseigene Staatsfarmen - VEGs), undertook several inspection trips, the purpose of which was to assist in introducing the so-called wage norms (Leistungsloehne) into the state farms.

2. The advisor was accompanied by a personal interpreter and an official

ILLEGIB

3. in the vicinity of Halle. Approximately 14 farm administrators were summoned to the state farm visited by Kudriavtsev. After having inspected the farm and inquired about the wages of the individual farm workers, the Soviet advisor first criticized the existing system, pointing out that standardized wage scales did not do justice to the more productive workers and pampered the lazy and "unproductive" ones. He explained that there was no real incentive for raising the productivity of the farm under the existing system, whereas wage norms would introduce the system of "socialist emulation". As an example, he stated that a worker who succeeds in obtaining 20 or 30 liters of milk from a cow through proper feeding and good care should obviously be remunerated with higher wages than a worker whose cow gives only 12 or 15 liters. After his general introduction, the Soviet advisor presented statistical charts and figures on the suggested wage norms. There was a short period of discussion and questioning. Shortly thereafter, a representative of the SED Kreis or Bezirksleitung introduced an official proposal that the farm administrators accept the suggestions made by the Soviet advisor and begin to recalculate the wages of their employees on the basis of the "tariffs" and norms. The role of the representative of the Ministry and of the representative of the Kreis or Bezirksleitung

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- 2 -

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5. Several state farms in the Halle area are in extremely poor condition. An observer who had personal experience in Soviet agriculture up to the late "thirties considers the farms to be poorer, dirtier and less well supplied than the Soviet "sovkhozes" of that time. The cattle appear underfed and not well cared for. There is a substantial lack of fodder.
6. Most of the state farms observed have enough mechanical equipment - of Soviet make - but a great part of it is not operating because of lack of parts. Electrical milking machines cannot be used because the small rubber parts which are placed on the cow's udder are missing. Break-downs are very frequent.
7. The introduction of wage norms and the direct "inspection" of East German state farms by the Soviet advisor appear to be directly related to the shortages in food items noticeable all over East Germany. The drive aims at increasing the productivity of the farms, but it appears that no organizational steps will be able to remedy the lack of feed, without which the farms cannot increase their production of milk and meat. Faced with this vicious cycle, the farmers on the state farms and the LPGs consider that the new wage norms hold little hope for improving their living standard and so their morale is low.

25X1

- 2 -

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